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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/593,107	06/13/2000	Yoji Kawamoto	SONY-T0708	7564

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, THANH T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2143

DATE MAILED: 10/07/2003

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

P24

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/593,107

Applicant(s)

KAWAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Tammy T Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE (3) MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 June 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) ✓
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____



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Detailed Office Action

1. This action is in response to the application **09/593,107** filed. **June 13, 2000**
2. Claims **1-15** have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1 and 5 recite the limitation " the pieces of terminal equipment" in claims 1, 5.

There are insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Specification

5. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because too long. Correction is required.

See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

7. 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Takahashi et al. (USPN 6,049,787 – Date of Patent: April 11, 2000, herein referred to as “Takahashi”).

8. As to claim 1, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, including a communication system for exchanging information through a network, wherein the information of the pieces of terminal equipment connected to said network system is registered in information control means connected to said network system (Fig. 1, Center site and terminal equipment, and col.3, lines 40-50), and

when prescribed information is transmitted to the terminal equipment of a receiver connected to said network from the terminal equipment of a transmitter connected to said network (col.5, lines 39-55, and col.3, lines 44-60), a transmission path for transmitting said information from said terminal equipment of the transmitter to said terminal equipment of the receiver is determined on the basis of said registered information (col.3, lines 60-67, and col.4, lines 45-55).

9. As to claim 2, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said information

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transmitted from said terminal equipment of the transmitter is converted into information which can be received by said terminal equipment of the receiver (col.5, lines 39-55).

10. As to claim 3, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, including an information controller connected to a network comprising:

registering means for registering the information of terminal equipment connected to said network system (Fig.2, col.4, lines 32-60); and

communication path determining means for determining the transmission path of said information from said terminal equipment of a transmitter to said terminal equipment of a receiver on the basis of said registered information when prescribed information is transmitted to said terminal equipment of the receiver connected said network from the terminal equipment of the transmitter connected to said network (col.4, line 64 to col.5, line 5, and col.5, lines 39-55).

11. As to claim 4, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said information control means is provided with converting means for converting said information transmitted from said terminal equipment of the (col.5, lines 25-38): transmitter into information capable of being received by said terminal equipment of the receiver (col.5, lines 39-55).

12. As to claim 5, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, including a network system for exchanging information via a network, wherein

the information of terminal equipment used by a user and terminal equipment connected to said terminal equipment used by the user among the pieces of terminal equipment connected to said network (Fig.1, col.3, lines 40-50) is registered in prescribed registering means together with information for identifying said user as available environmental information, and

provided information is transmitted to a terminal equipment specified by said registered available environmental information (col.4, lines 32-60, and col.5, lines 6-20).

13. As to claim 6, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said terminal equipment having display means for displaying prescribed provided information is selected on the basis of the available environmental information registered in said registering (col.11, lines 1-35, col.15, lines 15-24, and col.14, lines 54-67) means and said provided information is transmitted to said selected terminal equipment (col.6, lines 20-44).

14. As to claim 7, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said available environmental information includes owner information of said terminal equipment (col.6, lines 56-67, and col.7, lines 1-13).

15. As to claim 8, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said available environmental information is registered in said registering means in accordance with a registration request through said terminal equipment from prescribed portable terminal means (col.4, lines 28-55)

16. As to claim 9, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said available environmental information is registered in said registering means in accordance with the registration request transmitted from said terminal equipment, when prescribed external storing means is connected to said terminal equipment (col.15, lines 55-65, and col.13, lines 45-65, col.4, lines 32-40).

17. As to claim 10, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, including an information controller connected to a network comprising:

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registering means for registering the information of terminal equipment used by a user and terminal equipment connected to said terminal equipment used by said user among the pieces of terminal equipment connected to said network together with information for identifying said user as available environmental information terminal equipment (Fig. 1, col.4, lines 45-60), and

transmitting means for transmitting provided information to the terminal equipment specified by the registered available environmental information (col.5, lines 6-20, and col.5, lines 21-38).

18. As to claim 11, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said transmitting means selects the terminal equipment having display means for displaying prescribed provided information on the basis of said registered available environmental information (col.11, lines 1-35, col.15, lines 15-24, and col.14, lines 54-67) and transmits said provided information to said selected terminal equipment (col.6, lines 20-44).

19. As to claim 12, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said registering means registers the owner information of said terminal equipment (col.6, lines 56-67, and col.7, lines 1-13).

20. As to claim 13, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, including a terminal equipment connected to a network comprising: transmitting means for transmitting the identifying information of user for using said terminal equipment, identifying information peculiar to said terminal equipment and the information of connection terminal equipment connected to said terminal equipment to said network as available environmental information (col.5, lines 25-55).

21. As to claim 14, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, comprising:

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identifying information reading means connected to prescribed external storing means for reading out the identifying information of said user from the connected external storing means, wherein (col.5, lines 25-37)

said read identifying information of said user is transmitted to said network s said available environmental information (col.5, lines 39-55).

22. As to claim 15, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, comprising:

identifying information receiving means for receiving the identifying information of said user transmitted from prescribed portable terminal means (col.5, lines 25-37), wherein

said received identifying information of said user is transmitted to said network as said available environmental information (col.5, lines 39-55).

Conclusion

23. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Nishimoto et al	U.S. Patent No. 6,199,164	Issued March 6, 2001
Selgas et al	U.S. Patent No. 6,571,29	Issued May 27, 2003
Keenan et al	U.S. Patent No. 6,539,011	Issued March 25,2003
Ooke et al	U.S. Patent No. 5,822,518	Issued Oct 13, 1998
Cho et al	U.S. Patent No. 6,341,292	Issued Jan 22, 2002
Gossman et al	U.S. Patent No. 6,317,594	Issued Nov 13, 2001

24. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Tammy T. Nguyen** who may be reached via telephone at


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(703) 305-7982. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time.

If you need to send the Examiner, a facsimile transmission regarding After Final issues, please send it to **(703) 746-7238**. If you need to send an Official facsimile transmission, please send it to **(703) 746-7239**. If you would like to send a Non-Official (draft) facsimile transmission the fax is **(703) 746-7240**. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, **David Wiley**, may be reached at **(703) 308-5221**.

TTN

September 23, 2003



DAVID WILEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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